



City Projects UPDATE

CITY OF ROCKVILLE NEWSLETTER

FALL 2002



The Reunion Blues Dixieland Band performs above the newly unveiled "Out To Lunch Wednesdays" banner in August.

Out To Lunch Wednesdays Proves Fruitful for Locals

One phase of the City of Rockville's plan to build a "vibrant Town Center" is a glowing success. "Out To Lunch Wednesdays" is a City initiative that includes a farmer's market, live entertainment and plenty of food, beverages and desserts from local businesses, which gives locals a chance to spend part of their summer afternoons outside on East Montgomery Avenue beginning in June, and ending in September.

Mike Henry, the City of Rockville's Special Events Coordinator, said that local businesses have reported a noticeable spike in business on Wednesdays. For example, California Tortilla said that business improved by 25 percent on Wednesdays compared to other days of the week since the activities began. And Ben & Jerry's started opening earlier on Wednesdays to accommodate the lines that formed prior to noon.

"It was important for us to partner with businesses to meet all of our long-term goals," Henry said. "Instead of the City just telling businesses that we are conducting a farmer's market outside of their establishments, we really wanted to get everyone involved. And for the most part, it's been a success."

Wednesday's market, which was located in the Middle Lane parking lot for more than a decade, has gone from about 300 in attendance to nearly 1,000 people each week.

"Wednesday's new location is now in a casual stroller's path,

which draws a lot more people," Henry said. "The combination of established businesses, live music and great vendors at the market has made Wednesdays a success."

The City's Saturday farmer's market, also a popular destination for those in and near the community, which is still located in Middle Lane parking lot, has possibly benefited from Wednesday's change of location.

"We started to advertise for Saturday's market on Wednesday," Henry said. "I would like to believe that's contributed to the banner year we've had for Saturday's market."

And the vendors' offerings surely draw a steady crowd each Wednesday. All vendors are local, including two plant vendors, two produce, one bread, one coffee, the Rockville Arts Place, and a rotating non-profit slot that includes the Rockville Library, Rockville Chamber of Commerce and Montgomery County Historical Society.

This month, "Out To Lunch Wednesdays" will commemorate Sept. 11 through the patriotic music of the Rockville Concert Band as the City of Rockville partners with Montgomery County for a reflective ceremony. More information about that program can be found on Page 3 of *Rockville Reports*.

Henry said that for next year, the City is considering extending the event through October. ■

CALL 240-314-5022 FOR MORE INFO

A Doggoned Great Idea

Everyone knows that Rockville has many top-of-the-line recreational facilities for the community.

For *people* of the community, that is.

Until now, man's and woman's best friend had no official facility of its own. The City of Rockville is trying to accommodate its furry residents by building a state-of-the-art dog park.

According to Steve Mader, Superintendent of Parks and Facilities for the City of Rockville, a new dog park has multiple benefits for the community.

"It allows dog owners to socialize their dogs while getting to know their neighbors," Mader said.

The City's vision for a dog park will be developed based on a citizen sponsor/user group, which will meet this fall. Design is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2003 and construction should begin by the summer or fall of 2004.

Citizens' input will help the City determine the most appropriate location with consideration for community impact; access; centralization; availability of utilities; parking; and other consider-

ations. The City's Recreation and Park Advisory Board met on June 27 and was taken on a tour by park staff of potential dog park sites.

"Community support in this project is critical," said Mark Kibiloski, Parks Management Assistant for the City. "It will dictate the successes and/or failures of the park. With a user/sponsor group in place, citizens have an opportunity to take direct ownership of the park they helped shape and design."

According to mc-dog.org (Montgomery County Dog Owners Group), there are more than 30 dog parks in the greater D.C. area, but the only official dog park in Montgomery County is located in Gaithersburg, just off of Sam Eig Highway. Other dog parks in the area include Greenbelt, Bowie, Alexandria and Fairfax. ■

CALL 240-314-8704 FOR MORE INFO



Street Tree Plan Leaves Impression

Soon, the streets of Rockville neighborhoods will be filled with leaves as the summer's hot weather makes a gradual change to autumn. However, the trees that give so many of the streets of Rockville their character did not sprout up haphazardly. They were part of a plan.

Development of Rockville's Street Tree Master Plan began in 1996. The plan to address the approximately 22,000 trees placed in public right-of-ways along streets has several long-term intents. Years such as this one—when the region must deal with drought dating to winter—make this plan crucial.

"We are seeing more dead trees because of the drought," said City Forester Susan Nolde.

Those trees will eventually be replaced, and when that happens, it will be according to plan.

Rockville has gained significant notoriety for its tree-lined streets, including in a major story in *The Washington Post* earlier this year. Many of the City's neighborhoods long ago became home to trees that were excellent matches, but others were not. In March of 2000, a new plan was adopted by the Mayor and Council.

The plan will be a guide particularly for newly developing neighborhoods and for neighborhoods that have circumstances dictating heavy tree replacement—such as the drought of 2002. Approximately 400 street trees are planted or replanted each year under City Horticulturist Rob Orndorff.

"One of the biggest things about the plan is diversity and pest management," said Nolde, who estimates the City has dozens of different types of street trees. "If you get a pest and it attacks one type of tree, that could be a major problem."

Orndorff said the drought of the past year is cause for considerable concern, but added that residents can play an important role in preserving street trees.

"Our primary attention is on the replacement trees that were planted last fall," he said. "They are under a lot of stress because of the drought. We want residents to help by watering street trees near their homes. Residents can really make a difference." ■

CALL 240-314-5007 FOR MORE INFO



Inside: Montrose Community Center New Renovations



Some local children check out the new facilities at the Montrose Community Center.



Montrose Community Center Becomes Kiddie-Friendly

Lower Windows, Smaller Restroom Facilities Appeal to Rockville Youngsters

Built in the 1960s and updated in the 80s, the Montrose Community Center was ready and waiting for the overall upgrading project that began in April. The modernization, part of the Capital Improvement Program, involved updates to comply with the most current ADA standards, a new roof, increased storage, freshening up, a new welcome sign and community bulletin board, among many other upgrades.

Perhaps the most dramatic additions to the facility revolved around the needs of the children in the Discovery pre-school program. Before the recent renovations, the Montrose building was basically all brick, with no windows. Part of the renovation process was to install windows – some of them just two to three feet from the floor to accommodate the toddlers who utilize the facility as much as any-

one. The result is a brighter, happier space for the youngsters and certified staff. Also installed was a mini-potty for the tiniest of restroom users.

In addition to the Discovery program, the Montrose facility is the site for many civic association and community meetings, child and teen programs and park rentals. All will benefit from the enhancements.

“The facility needed general updates after 20 years of extensive use from all kinds of programs and activities,” said Chris Heckhaus, Administration Services Manager for the Department of Recreation and Parks. “It’s basically a face-lift. We upgraded it to meet the standards for all people to use.”

Finishing touches will be completed at Montrose just in time for start of the school year. ■

CALL 240-314-8600 FOR MORE INFO

Improvements Start on the Ground Floor at the Rockville Climbing Gym

A new floor has been the focus of renovation this summer at the Rockville Climbing Gym, located at Civic Center Park.

Just in time for fall classes, the project included removing the former gravel floor and replacing it with safer, cleaner rubber tiles throughout the gym, as well as foam carpet on top of the tiles. The new foam carpet reaches out about six feet from each climbing wall.

City staff led the project from removal of the old floor, to the cleaning of the equipment, to cutting and placing the new flooring. Volunteers also assisted with the project.

The upgrades will lead to a cleaner facility and will maintain the integrity of equipment. ■

CALL 240-314-8641 FOR MORE INFO



A climber scales the walls at the City's Climbing Gym.

Recreation and Parks Projects

HUNGERFORD

Dawson Farm Park • Replacement of wooden bridge and reconstruction of granary in historically sensitive manner and to serve as a park shelter/gazebo • granary and bridge design underway in summer • projected completion winter 2002-2003 • public input has been incorporated into design

GENERAL PROJECTS

Ballfield Improvements • Dogwood Park sodding and soil renovation, Broome Park irrigation head replacement, and Rock Terrace backstop replacement projects are complete • Hillcrest Park outfield fence replacement is scheduled for winter 2002-2003

Beall-Dawson Historical Park • Transplanting of boxwoods • minor landscaping enhancements • installation of directional signs • to start in fall 2002

Croydon Creek Pedestrian Bridge • Wooden bridge at the end of Avery Road over Croydon Creek to be replaced • securing permits • to be completed in 2003

Mary Trumbo Park • Design has been approved for park in East Rockville • committee has been formed to select artwork • construction could begin as early as fall 2002

Millennium Trail • Norbeck Road multi-use path from East Gude Drive to Veirs Mill Road in design, construction scheduled for 2002-03 • resurfacing of path along Wootton Parkway from Edmonston Drive to Falls Road scheduled for 2002

I-270/Route 28 Bike/Pedestrian Bridge • Separate bridge parallel to Route 28 on south side across I-270 to connect Hurley Ave. and Nelson Street bikeways • Hurley Avenue Trail currently under design • TEA-21 award for

\$3,124,421 received from State Highway Administration • under design • construction scheduled for summer 2003 • citizen input will continue to be incorporated into design

North Farm and Potomac Woods • color coat basketball courts • projects to be completed by fall 2002

Playground Equipment Improvements • Broome Park, Dogwood Park (picnic area), and Isreal Park playground equipment replacement • construction is scheduled for fall/winter of 2002 • Potomac Woods Park and Rockcrest Park playground equipment replacement • design phase scheduled for fall of 2002 with construction in spring 2003

Rockville Civic Center Park • Installation of lightning protection for significant trees around the mansion • summer 2002 • Installation of ornamental iron fence along the stone wall beside Baltimore Road • work scheduled for fall 2002

Rockville Senior Center • Expand dining room • renovate kitchen • sound-proof card and computer rooms • currently in planning stage • construction in winter 2003

Rock Terrace • Installation of backstops is halfway completed • project should be finished in summer 2003

Welsh Park • resurface tennis court, replace retaining wall and fence, resurface basketball court • work will be completed by fall 2002

Wootton Parkway Landscape • Enhancements to be made to landscaping on Wootton Parkway between Route 355 and Falls Road • project has been awarded • installation to begin fall 2002

CALL 240-314-8600 FOR MORE INFO

Important City of Rockville Phone Numbers

Here are some important City of Rockville numbers that you might want to cut out and stick on the refrigerator for later reference:

Emergency Water/Sewer	240-314-8567
Emergency Public Works Maintenance	240-314-8567
Neighborhood Services	240-314-8930
Parks Administration	240-314-8600
Public Works Administration	240-314-8500
Public Works Operations	240-314-8565
Public Works Utilities	240-314-8566
Refuse/Recycling	240-314-8568
Tree Maintenance Requests	240-314-5007
Water Treatment Plant	240-314-8555

Public Works Projects

TOWN CENTER

Maryland Avenue Extension • Initial survey complete • Extension to be built concurrent with new library • Now looking at design layout of Maryland Avenue north of Beall Avenue

WEST END

Brick sidewalks • Laird Street installation will be completed in August • Forest Street to follow Laird Street

TWINBROOK

Sewer Rehabilitation • Sewer evaluation survey, including flow monitoring, smoke testing and video inspection of underground piping, for the southeastern area of Twinbrook will be conducted during the summer and fall • Design to be accomplished during winter • Construction planned for spring 2003

GENERAL PROJECTS

Asphalt Maintenance Program • Work began in August and will be completed by the end of September in the following areas: a portion of Argyle Street, Chadsbury, College Gardens, Dover Road, Loftstrand Lane, Howard Avenue, Markwood, Montrose subdivision, New Mark, Rothgeb Drive, Stonestreet Avenue, a portion of Twinbrook Forest and Woodley Gardens East.

Bike/Pedestrian Improvements • Intersection of Twinbrook Parkway at Chapman Avenue planned for fall • Route 28 at I-270 and Nelson Street and Route 28 and Great Falls Road planned for fall/winter

Chapman Avenue Watermain Upgrade • Construction of upgrade between Route 355 and Chapman Ave. on Th-

ompson Ave., and on Chapman Ave. from Thompson Ave. to Halpine Road has started • Work to be completed by fall

Fallsgrove Off-site Improvements • Intersections to be improved include Gude Drive and Research Blvd.; Gude Drive and Gaither Road.; I-270 and Shady Grove Road.; I-270, Route 28, and Nelson St.; West Montgomery Ave. and Gude Drive; West Montgomery Ave. and Shady Grove Rd.; and Shady Grove and Research Blvd.

Mount Vernon SWM • Improvements will be made to Cabin John Creek with modifications to existing storm water management • construction to start in August

North Horners Lane Utilities Improvement • Water main upgrade planned between Southlawn Lane and Westmore Avenue • Construction planned for spring 2003

Wootton Parkway Improvements • New traffic signal and an extra turn lane are being added on Scott Drive at Wootton Parkway to separate right and left turn movements • intersection of Wootton Parkway and Glen Mill Road is being modified so Wootton Parkway continues straight to Darnestown Road • Glen Mill Road will stop at Wootton Parkway • Construction is expected to begin in the fall

Cabin John Sewer Upgrade • Design is underway for sewer upgrade between Montrose Road and Wootton Parkway • Stream restoration is included • Construction planned for spring 2003

CALL 240-314-8500 FOR MORE INFO



City workers have earned a solid reputation because of their dedication to street maintenance.

Street Paving Program Keeping Pot Holes Grounded

Rockville's street paving program, which has kept City-maintained streets relatively pothole-free for more than a decade, will continue through early September in selected neighborhoods.

Rockville has kept a regular schedule over the years for milling and paving streets. Edge milling leaves a rough surface for the new asphalt to adhere to. Milling the sides of roads creates a slight crown in the roadway, allowing water to run off.

"The new compacted asphalt can be driven on in less than a half-hour," said John Leasure, an engineering technician for the City. "This allows traffic in congested areas to be restored to almost normal in a reasonable amount of time."

The work is performed in summer when the weather is warmest because of the nature of hot asphalt. The timing also is good because schools are closed and traffic is less congested.

The City posts signs on roads 48 hours in advance of work to inform resi-

dents of the project. Road contractors additionally leave flyers at residences as an extra measure to keep neighborhoods aware of paving activities. Resurfacing is conducted from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Portions of the following roads are schedule for paving through the end of this summer:

Aug. 26-30: Argyle Street, Aster Drive, Azalea Drive, Basildon Circle, Bentana Court, Blossom Drive, Bracknell Circle, Carnation Drive, Crocus Drive, Cumbermauld Court, Don Mills Court, Farsta Court, Harlow Court, Hawthorn Court, Hawthorn Place, Lakeside Overlook, Larkspur Terrace, Leonard Court, Letchworth Circle, Marcus Court, New Mark Esplanade, Potomac Valley Road, Radbum Court, Scandia Way, Stevenage Way, Tapiola Circle, Tegner Way, Vallingby Circle, Watchwater Way, Welwyn Way, Wintergreen Terrace and Woodley Drive. ■

CALL 240-314-8542 FOR MORE INFO

Water Treatment Plant Keeps on Pumping

One of the City's major highlights for FY02 was the modernization and expansion of the Water Treatment Plant located on the Potomac River.

With its dedicated staff and excellent facility, the Water Treatment Plant completed FY02 having operated for 13 consecutive months without shutdowns for maintenance, operational problems or repair. The only shutdowns were due to uncontrollable electrical outages, which had relatively little overall effect on operations.

The modernization project, which began in FY1995, was started in response to tougher federal and state environmental mandates, as well as the rising demand for water in a growing Rockville.

On a hot summer day, demand can exceed eight million gallons of water. Currently, the plant produces an average of five million gallons of water per day. When the project is complete, the plant will be able to pump 14 million

gallons per day. Some of the upgrades to the Water Treatment project include:

- Adding a filter press to eliminate sediment discharge to the Potomac River (completed FY1996)
- Refurbishing the intake structure, which draws water from the Potomac River (completed FY1999)
- Constructing the plant's two clarifiers (completed FY00)
- Replacing mechanical devices, such as the pumps, that move the water more than five miles from the Potomac River to the city (completion FY04)
- Adding a pump station on Glen Mill Road (completion FY04)
- Improving the access road (comple-



tion FY03) • Rehabilitating the plant's four filters (completion FY03) Rockville will spend more than \$8 million to complete the renovations and upgrades to the water treatment plant. The City received low interest loans from the State of Maryland for this work.

Water Conservation Tips for Area Residents

The City of Rockville is urging residents and businesses to voluntarily conserve water in light of the extreme temperatures and continued drought watch this summer.

Some suggestions from the Metro-

politan Washington Council of Governments and Maryland Department of the Environment are:

- Water plants, trees and shrubs early in the morning to reduce evaporation
- Keep weeds out of gardens
- Avoid over fertilizing lawns
- Use a broom, instead of the hose, to clean sidewalks and driveways
- Cover swimming pools and clean the filter regularly
- Repair leaky faucets, toilets or pipes
- Replace conventional faucets and showerheads with water-efficient ones
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving
- Operate dishwashers and washing machines only with a full load
- Limit showers to five minutes or less ■

CALL 240-314-8555 FOR MORE INFO

New Stormwater Management and Sediment Control Ordinance Introduced

Rockville's Mayor and Council recently introduced a new City ordinance regarding stormwater management (SWM) and sediment control. This new ordinance will bring Rockville into conformance with the Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) adopted stormwater management standards of design, and also offers flexibility to deal with site-specific conditions and varying watershed protection goals. It is expected to be adopted in September 2002.

The City's sediment control and stormwater management law, originally adopted in 1978, was the first in the state. The law has been updated periodically to reflect changes in state law, most recently in 1991. In October 2000, the State of Maryland adopted new stormwater management regulations, and all counties and municipalities were required to incorporate the new state requirements in local ordinances.

After a thorough review process, which included a public work session with the Mayor and Council, extensive coordination with MDE, and a one-year transition period for the development community, Rockville staff finalized the draft ordinance and regulations, which meet the state's requirements and implement work session recommendations.

The revisions accomplish several goals of the City's SWM program, including:

- The criteria for sizing and designing SWM facilities have been changed to be consistent with MDE standards, which are more effective at pollutant removal and at reducing downstream erosion than the outdated standards.



Stoneridge Pond is just one of the City's advanced stormwater ponds.

- Providing for the regulation and use of a wider range of watershed management techniques, including environmentally sensitive and innovative site design methods, stream restoration projects and other watershed improvements.
- Sediment control and SWM approval processes will be separated, and a new SWM permit will be established that covers SWM facilities and other watershed improvements, including stream restoration.
- The SWM waiver approval process will be converted to an administrative review of SWM alternatives, and the triggers for requiring SWM or sediment control will be updated to comply with state regulations and to apply evenly to many small-scale projects common to City development.
- The City's SWM fee schedule is being revised to match the new approval process.
- The SWM monetary contribution op-

tion, which was associated with the SWM waiver process, is retained as an alternative to on-site SWM. The quality control monetary rate will increase from \$6,000 to \$12,000 per impervious acre to reflect the doubling of the quality control volume in the state. The quantity control monetary rate will remain at \$40,000 per impervious acre.

The new state SWM standards are now being applied to all development proposals under review. Sediment Control Permits already issued under the existing SWM standards will be allowed to complete construction under their two-year permit period. Developers have been advised that these permits will not be extended, so SWM construction must be completed in that time frame to avoid further obligations under the new standards.

For further information, please consult the City of Rockville's Web site at www.ci.rockville.md.us. ■

CALL 240-314-8500 FOR MORE INFO

Playing with State Money at Isreal Park

Redesign, New Play Pieces Are in the Works for Fall



Isreal Park is scheduled for a facelift this fall.

Isreal Park, in the Lincoln Park neighborhood, is scheduled to receive a facelift this fall, thanks to a state grant presented to the City of Rockville's Department of Recreation and Parks issued by Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources.

The Community Parks and Playground Grant, which is in excess of \$100,000, is part of Gov. Parris Glendening's Smart Growth package and is intended to "enhance the livability of communities by restoring or enhancing existing parks, playgrounds or other open spaces," according to the award letter.

Improvements to Isreal Park include a playground redesign based on consultation with neighborhood children, plus accessibility improvements to the playground and shelter.

"This grant gave us the opportunity to make the park more accessible and interesting to the children in the community," said Chris Heckhaus, Administration Services Manager for Rockville's Department of Recreation and Parks. "The children gave us feedback so we are able to bring in better play pieces. It's great to have their participation in the process." ■

CALL 240-314-8519 FOR MORE INFO



An Historical Master Plan is Developed for Glenview

An Historical Master Plan has been developed for Glenview Mansion and the surrounding grounds. The master plan was designed to develop recommendations for long-term preservation and enhancement of the historic resources of Glenview and its grounds.

Created by the consultant firm of John Milner associates, the plan first

“This plan will definitely give people an awareness of what we have and how we got here.”

— Lew Dronenburg,
Civic Center Superintendent

outlines the history, significance and historical development of the property. The plan also examines the existing conditions and issues associated with the property and its uses.

"This plan looks at preserving the entire mansion, not just its perimeter," said Lew Dronenburg, superintendent of Rockville Civic Center Park. "But it also looks at everything in the park. It will help us determine what is historical and what is not. There is a lot of green space here, but the gardens, the trees and just about everything here—there is a reason for almost all of it. This plan will definitely give people an awareness of what we have and how we got here."

Resource management guidelines are presented to establish basic principles that should be followed when decisions are being made about potential changes to the property.

Recommendations are given for potential improvements to the property and suggestions as to how the property might be changed to better accomplish its mission.

The master plan has gone through an extensive information gathering and evaluation phase, with significant input and review by City staff, the Recreation and Park Advisory Board, the Historic District Commission, the Cultural Arts Committee, as well as neighborhood and Mansion Docent input. At this time the plan is ready for presentation to the Mayor and Council for adoption. ■

CALL 240-314-8660 FOR MORE INFO